# The GARZETTE

January 2004 Volume 13, Issue 1



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### President's View

I hope this doesn't sound like I'm blowing my own horn, but GARS had a wonderful Christmas party! A big thanks goes out to Rich Armstrong, **WM9X**, for the great venue of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. Also a big thanks to Mavis Plotz, **N9FWG**; Dan Keohan, **KF4YSU**; and David Adcock, **KA4KKF** for all the work they put into making this a pleasant and enjoyable evening for all attendees. Also, congratulations to Norman Schklar, **WA4ZXV**, for being selected Gwinnett Amateur Radio Society's Ham of The Year; his award was presented at the Christmas party. (see page 2 for a photo of the presentation)

By the time you read this message, another year will have passed and here we are staring at a new year. Year 2004 will provide us with a clean slate upon which to write a new story of GARS activities. I have a personal goal of working with APRS this new year and I envision several GARS activates where that technology will be useful. I saw APRS used during a walk in Dekalb County this past year, and am anxious to try it for the Memorial Day parade and the Kidney Foundation Walk, events for which GARS provides communications.

Speaking of digital communications, Stan Edwards, **WA4DYD**, has developed a great piece of software for packet radio. I invite you to join Gwinnett ARES, so you may receive training on emergency communications and obtain Stan's software Packet Client.

GARS Activities Officer, David, **KA4KKF**, has some great programs lined up for our monthly meetings for 2004. Make plans to attend as many meetings as you can. Please remember our meeting location for January will be at Central Gwinnett High School in the auditorium. We will have the nomination of officers for 2004. Elections will take place during our normal February Club meeting. All five elected leadership positions will be open for vote.

Here is wishing everyone happy haming in Year 2004.

Carl—WB4JSW

### The GARZETTE

The GARZETTE is the official monthly organ of the Gwinnett Amateur Radio Society serving its members and other persons interested in the advancement of the amateur radio art.

Original articles, art, and photos are invited and encouraged. Previously copyrighted submissions cannot be accepted for reprinting unless permission from the appropriate publisher is provided in writing along with the information being submitted. If reprints are from publications allowing their unrestricted use, please include a copy of the printed permission contained in the publication.

If possible, bring your articles to the monthly meeting in Microsoft Word format or by email to garzette@gars.org. Artwork can be accepted in most any graphics format and can be submitted via email to the same address. Alternate means of submittal can be arranged when necessary.

In keeping with the amateur radio spirit, permission is hereby granted for the reproduction of *The GARZETTE* articles by other amateur radio club newsletters provided that proper credit is given to the individual author and to *The GARZETTE*.

The GARZETTE is published each month with the assistance of Hal Manning, who prints the news letter. Rick Patchin, KD4RFK does the final production work on The GARZETTE by folding & labeling. John A. Davis, WB4QDX, stamps and gets the end product to the Post Office each month. Paul McInnish, K4BET who manages email delivery. Many thanks to each of them and all article contributors.

Deadline for submissions is the <u>20th of</u> <u>each month</u> for inclusion in the following month's issue.

For any additional information contact:

**Newsletter Editor:** 

Rich Armstrong—WM9X

(678)985-6967 wm9x@hotmail.com

armstrongra@ldschurch.org

All correspondence relating to articles posted in *The GARZETTE* or for information concerning advertising rates should be directed to the following address:

Gwinnett Amateur Radio Society P.O. Box 88 Lilburn, GA 30048 Attn: Newsletter Editor

#### GARS MEETING MINUTES

December's regular club meeting was replaced by the annual Christmas Party.

### GARS Christmas Party - December 6, 2003

Norm Schklar—WA4ZXV Public Information Officer

We all had a great time at Church of Jesus Christ of I great place to host the party.

The officers went to a lot of seated dinner complete with

Music was managed by a dis of Ceremonies, and somehow one door prize. Dan, **KF4YS** 

The HAM of the Year award

Thank you GARS officers a President, Carl, **WB9JSW** and Mavis, **N9FWG**.







## Executive Committee Meeting

All interested individuals are invited and encouraged to attend the monthly Executive Committee Meeting. Presently, these gatherings occur one hour in advance of the regular Club Meeting. The location is in a classroom immediately near the Club meeting space.

Several years ago these Ex. Comm. meetings were instituted for the purpose of saving more time in our Club meetings for "radio talk" verses the business of the Club. To that end, they have been successful. However, some members enjoy ALL aspects of the Club. and as such. are encouraged come. to participate, share insights and opinions! We will all be benefited by the sharing of ideas & experience.

For the latest Club news, visit the GARS Website at:

www.gars.org

### Club Calendar

#### GARS Monthly club meeting is the 2nd Tuesday of the month at 7:30 PM. We meet at the First United Methodist Church in Lawrenceville.

- GARS Monthly exec meeting is the 2nd Tuesday of the month at 6:30 PM. We meet at the First United Methodist Church in Lawrenceville. Anyone interested is welcome to attend.
- Every Monday at 8 PM local time: GARS Want, Swap, Sell, and Information Net on the GARS 2
  meter repeater
- Every Thursday at 8 PM local time: GARS CW Practice Net with WE5O
- Every Wednesday at 9 PM local time: GARS 6 meter net on the GARS 6 meter repeater
- Every Saturday at 8AM local time: GARS Weekly Family Breakfast, Golden Corral Restaurant, Riverside Drive, Lawrenceville
- 20th of each month: Deadline for submittal of articles for the following month's GARZETTE

### **GARS Elmers**

Many of us Hams got interested in the hobby (service) as a result of some influence an experienced Ham had on us. The GARS organization is blessed with a lot of talented members that are willing to share their knowledge. The following list is made up of those individuals willing to serve as Elmers. Hopefully, this list will grow, and in time, maybe we'll get more who are willing to add a particular area of expertise.

KF4KSE David Moon (770) 279-9924 mobile radio installation

KG4IUM Andrea Hartlage (770) 963-2715 making QSL cards

KG4FXG, Bill Carter, (770) 339-4531 Mobile CW

WA4DYD, Stan Edwards (770) 923-8770 Emergency Communications

### **GENERAL INFORMATION:**

WE5O Ron Langston (770) 569-8354
N1TWX Win Jackson (404) 869-1347
W4WKP Johnnie Fearon (770) 207-0020
WB2YAD Duane Reynolds
WB9JSW, Carl Plotz
K4MJK Mike Kovak

K4CB Carter Bennett (770) 923-5446
W4ADE Ade Wirth (770) 614-3743
K4HBI Mike Swiderski (770) 449-0369

W8KJM, Barney Barnes (APRS)

### **CLUB OFFICERS**

#### President

Carl Plotz, WB9JSW Vice President

### Secretary

vacant

J. Morgan Ringold, KG4PAN **Treasurer** 

Dan Keohan, KF4YSU Activities Manager David Adcock, KA4KKF

### **BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

David Adcock, KA4KKF Johnny Fearon, W4WKP Marty Fowler, KE4MLH

### **COMMITTEES**

### Membership

John A. Davis, WB4QDX 770-962-6129

Public Information Officer Norm Schklar, WA4ZXV

Newsletter Editor

Rich Armstrong, WM9X

License Trustee

Randy Drescher, K4HS 770-925-9549

Repeater Chairman

Eddie Foust, WD4JEM

Tech Fest OPEN

**WAS/VUCC Card Checker** 

Don Ernest, KS4WR

**Net Manager** 

Harry Holmes, K4HJH

Field Day Chair

Harry Holmes, K4HJH

**Education Coordinator** 

Win Jackson, N1TWX (404)869-1347

**Club Meeting Coordinator** 

Jack Shipley, W4UVQ

Apparel Manager

Dan Keohan, KF4YSU

**Holiday Party Co-Chairs** 

Carl Plotz, WB9JSW

Mavis Plotz, N9FWG

QSL Manager

Ade Wirth, W4ADE (770)614-3743

Webmaster

Brandon White, NB5E

**Scholarship Chairman** 

Carter Wood, AG4LK

**CW Net Manager** 

Ron Langston, WE5O

**Technical Advisor** 

Mike Swiderski, K4HBI

### **NOTICE**

GARS Club elections are held each February. Nominations are taken at the January meeting. All five elected positions will be voted upon:

President

Vice-president

Secretary

Treasurer

Activities Manager

### IMPORTANT REMINDER—

### **January Meeting Place**

The January GARS meeting is to be held on Jan 13, 7:30PM at the following location:

Gwinnett Central High School 564 West Crogan Street Lawrenceville, GA 30045

This is a **one time change**. We'll be back at our regular meeting place in February.

### **Directions from I-85 North to Central Gwinnett:**

- Take the I-85 N exit, exit number 103, on the left towards GREENVILLE. 0.2 mile; merge onto I-85 N. 21.1 miles.
- Take the GA-316 E exit, exit number 106, towards LAWRENCEVILLE/ATHENS. 0.4 mile; merge onto GA-316 E. 4.5 miles
- Take the GA-120 exit towards LAWRENCEVILLE/DULUTH. 0.2 mile Keep RIGHT at the fork in the ramp. 0.0 miles
- Merge onto WEST PIKE STREET/GA-120. 0.2 mile WEST PIKE STREET/GA-120 becomes WEST PIKE STREET/DULUTH HWY NW/GA-120.0.1 mile
- Turn RIGHT onto LANGLEY DRIVE, from WEST PIKE STREET.
- Turn RIGHT onto US-29 S./GA-8 W.

0.5 mile and CENTRAL GWINNETT HIGH SCHOOL is on the LEFT. The castle is in the back!

The January **Executive Committee Meeting** will be held January 10th (Saturday) during the weekly breakfast gathering at 8:00am.

### TECH FEST & CHILI COOK-OFF!

By Norm Schklar, WA4ZXV Public Information Officer

Get the Crock Pot Ready! Look up that recipe for the best chili in town. It's time for the GARS Tech Fest and Chili Cook-off.

Mark you calendar: Saturday January 24<sup>th</sup>, 2004 at the First United Methodist Church in Lawrenceville. (Directions available on web site & on page 8)

The idea of **Tech Fest** was first tested 6 years ago when Kevin Berry, **KF4RMA** expressed interest in an event who's primary function was to expose members of the community to the many facets of Amateur Radio. Unlike Field day, this is not a contest or race. It is a chance to experience parts of our hobby that we might never have seen. It's a chance to hear the truth about radios and antennas, without the flashy spin that a salesperson might put on it. It is an event that encourages the free exchange of ideas and knowledge. Watch the **GARS** web site for the latest information on this year's **Tech Fest**. Tech Fest is an inside event, so unless there is some *really* strange weather, it should take off as scheduled.

If you have a special interest in some mode of amateur radio or electronics and would like to share your equipment and experiences with the community, please give David a call @ 678-467-1140 or email him at ka4kkf@arrl.net to arrange for a table to showcase your demonstration. Space is somewhat limited, so go ahead and reserve a table. This is also a good time for our Elmers to show up and share some tales of HAM radio history.

We'll do setup around 9:00 and start at 10:00 and serve lunch along with the Great GARS Chili Cook-off around noon. Last year we were a little short on chili, so this year we need additional entries in the Cook-off. We could use a volunteer to coordinate the Cook-off.

We hope to demonstrate fellowship, HF, VHF, UHF, QRP, digital communications, CW, antennas, portable operations, electronic gadgets, Club and Ham Services, our association with the ARRL, great chili and hamburgers.

Be sure to invite your non-ham friends. This should be a great family experience and a time for some of our younger citizens to become interested in the Magic of Amateur Radio.

### **January Club Presentation**

Sandy Donahue, **W4RU**, will give us a presentation on the American Radio Relay League (ARRL). This organization is actively engaged in providing an impressive variety of services to the Amateur Radio community. Come and learn what your dues are doing for you.

### **February Club Presentation**

Club member Bill Carter—**KG4FXG**, will be presenting information on the National Traffic System. The N.T.S. is a valuable tool for efficient and accurate message handling during times of communications emergencies. It also is one more facet of our Amateur Radio experience to be enjoyed! Thanks in advance, Bill.

### **March Club Presentation**

Club member Stan Edwards—**WA4DYD**, will give us a presentation on the Amateur Radio Emergency Service (ARES). Stan serves as the Gwinnett County ARES Director. Gwinnett County (ARES) is a model of organization and cooperation between Amateur Radio and local government.



Club President Carl—WB9JSW & lovely wife Mavis– N9FWG at December's Christmas party

### **Member Spotlight**

Editors Note - At the November 2003 GARS Club meeting, it was proposed that a couple of our members would be selected each month and asked to write a small feature spot for the Garzette. The writers could introduce themselves to the Club or select any topic germane to our Amateur Radio interests. This is strictly voluntary; no pressure will be applied! Just have fun with it.

Rich WMOX, suggested that I begin this short is a light by the spring of 1951 when my high school friend and neighbor suggested that we get our "ham" licenses together. I wasn't quite sure what that meant, but was willing to give it a try. After painting houses and studying that summer, we hopped on a bus to Atlanta, about 250 miles from our home in East Tennessee. He passed and I failed! Not to be outdone, I studied harder and became WN4UVQ in January 1952.

1954 found me volunteering for active duty with the U.S. ARMY NATIONAL GUARD. While serving as communications chief in Korea, I was nearly caught by the Army Security Agency practicing C.W. with a "bug" and an oscillator that must have been radiating a little rf. They had excellent receivers and speed keys were illegal.

I have enjoyed my hobby and have "elmered" many others, as well as helping with license exams. I was privileged to track Sputnik on an Hammarlund SP600, work several countries that no longer exist, and be a part of the evolution of solid state and miniature electronics.

My family consists of my high school classmate, JoAnn, whom I married in 1957, 3 daughters, 4 grandchildren, and one Great-granddaughter. We are blessed in that all of us live in the metro area.

My employment included 10 years with the Raytheon Company (missile systems division), 4 years with a telecommunications company, and 28 years with an international healthcare company.

The field of electronics and communications is beginning to be a bit overwhelming for me, but I know members of GARS are willing and able to help me when I get in over my head with changing technology.



### Attention All Amateurs...

ARRL Web Page - www.arrl.org

FEMA to FCC: BPL will "Severely Impair" Mission-Essential HF Operations (Dec 8, 2003) -- Expressing "grave concerns" about likely interference from unlicensed Broadband over Power Line (BPL)

systems, the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) has to impair FEMA's mission-essential HF radio operations in areas serviced

FEMA filed comments December 4 in response to last April's FCC Bl 104. FEMA expressed primary concern over BPL's potential impact o (FNARS), which operates on HF and serves as the agency's primary coas part of the Federal Response Plan. BPL also could render such "exthe Radio Amateur Civil Emergency Service (RACES), the Military the Civil Air Patrol (CAP) useless, FEMA said. FEMA and ARRL *Understanding* that focuses on how Amateur Radio personnel may coemergency communications functions.



### **GARS** Apparel

Several items of clothing that feature our Club logo and/or your callsign are available to Club members. These items include polo shirts, sweat shirts, caps, jackets and other articles. Callsign badges can also be ordered. See Dan Keohan, **KF4YSU**, at the next Club meeting for a listing of items and their associated costs.

Contact a Club officer if you have a suggestion for an upcoming Club meeting speaker or topic.



Another happy table at the Christmas Party

Others resentment is like drinking poison and then waiting for the other guy to die!

Here are some quotes worth pondering:

The big chapters in life will become the footnotes. The footnotes in life will become the big chapters.

Neal A. Maxwell

It's a category "10" sunrise through the picture window of the palatial 1st floor of the road cruiser lounge.

Dr. Dave—N4XVF while 2 meter mobiling

Of all the blessings earth and sky can bestow, There is none so precious as one true friend.

# VHF / UHF Beacons Activated at Snellville Site By Gary Bailey—WA4IOB

Propagation beacons for 2 meter, 222Mhz and 70cm bands were installed at the Lanier Mountain Snellville site. The beacon CW frequencies are 144.285Mhz, 222.055Mhz and 432.352Mhz and are within the prescribed beacon band plan for each band. Output power is 2 watts CW on each band. The 2 meter and 222Mhz antennas are horizontal squalos (square loop) and the 70cm antenna is 4 half wave diploes in a 90 degree horizontal configuration feed with a 4-way power divider. The CW ID generator, antennas and 4-way power divider where home brewed by WA4IOB. Transmitters are Hamtronics kits with XTAL oven option for frequency stability. The CW ID message is B B WA4IOB/EM73 where EM73 is the grid square identifier for the grid square the Snellville site is located within. Grid squares are based on the world wide "Maidenhead" system for identifying 1 degree by 2 degree grid blocks over the face of the earth.

Beacons are active on virtually all bands from **160** meters to the high microwave frequencies. Their primary purpose is to provide a constant fixed reference for location and power level. Global band openings can be identified by HF beacons while VHF/UHF beacons serve to identify band conditions on a more regional setting. With certain band condition even VHF/UHF beacons can identify band enhancement conditions for distances of several hundred to several thousand miles.

These beacons will provide additional benefits to hams in the Atlanta region by providing a constant power level test signal with an omni directional antenna pattern. Think of it as a signal generator. You can use it to determine station upgrade performance such as antenna improvements, new coax , installing pre amps or trouble shoot your station by knowing before and after signal levels from the beacons. If you have SSB or CW equipment on these bands take the time to listen to the beacons and make a note of the signal strength for future reference. If you are using an FM receiver, tune as close to the frequency as your tuning step will allow. The signal will appear as an unmodulated carrier keying on and off by the controller. When doing antenna testing, your radio "S-meter" can be used to compare relative gain or loss with your receiving system.

All equipment cost for these beacons was funded by **WA4IOB**. Hosting of the site by GARS is greatly appreciated. Several VHF/UHF news letters have been advised of the beacons and GARS has been given credit as the site host. Signal reports and stories about how the beacons benefit your station development would be appreciated.

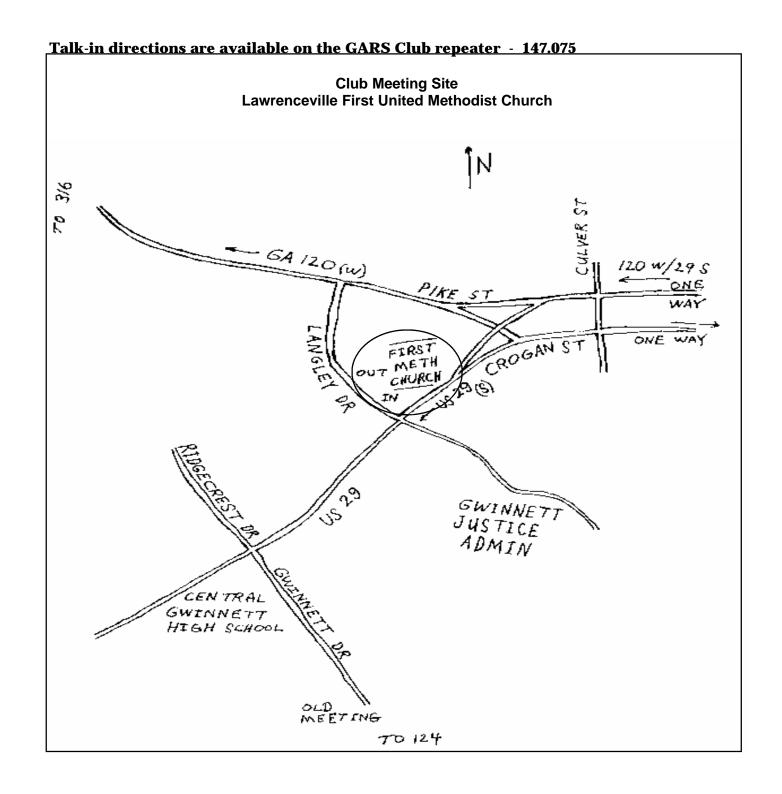
"The Radio Amateur is Considerate, Loyal, Progressive, Friendly, Balanced, and Patriotic"

-- The Amateur's Creed, Paul M. Segal (9EEA)

### Your Ad Could Be Here

If you need to sell an item (or want to locate a hard to find gadget) place your notice in the *Garzette*.

We will run your non-business ad for free (space available). Just send your ad to Editor Rich Armstrong, WM9X.



# We'll see you at the next GARS Club meeting: 13 January 2004

See page 4 for January Club meeting location.



**Gwinnett Amateur Radio Society** P.O. Box 88 Lilburn, GA 30048

### **MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION**

### Date App Rcvd \_\_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_ Pmt Rcvd Payment Amt \$ \_\_\_\_\_ Mem Appr

Database

**GARS USE ONLY** 

N□W	<b>MEMBER</b>
□NE	-WAI

N□W MEMBER I⊋NEWAL	L
Amateur Call Sign	License Clas Novice Techniciar General Advance Extra
Name	
Address	
City State	Zip
Email address	
Home Telephone	Work Telephone
Cell Telephone	Date of Birth / (mm/dd/yy)
ARRL Member Yes No Life	
Interests	
I prefer to receive the GARZETTE newsletter by	: US Mail Email (please check only one)
Type of Membership	Optional Contributions
Individual \$30.00 annually	Repeater Fund \$
enior \$15.00 annually (over age 65) amily ** \$35.00 annually ** vailable for family members residing at the same	Scholarship Fund \$ ne address
Additional Family Members **	
Name	
License Class Technician General Ext	tra <b>ARRL Member</b> Yes No Life
Interests	
Name:	Date of Birth / (mm/dd/yy)
License Class Technician General Ext	tra <b>ARRL Member</b> Yes No Life
Interests	
I agree to abide by the By-Laws of the Gwinnett An Club.	nateur Radio Society and understand that membership is subject to the approval of the
Applicant Signature	///

### Metro Atlanta Club Meetings

### <u>First Tuesday</u> Kennehoochee ARC

First United Methodist Church in Marietta Meeting begins at 7:30 PM Talk In 146.880(-)

### <u>Second Monday</u> Georgia Tech ARC

Room W218
Van Leer Electrical Engineering
Bldg.
Georgia Tech Campus
Meeting at 7:00 PM

### <u>First Thursday</u> Atlanta Radio Club

Georgia Red Cross HQ 1955 Monroe Dr., Atlanta Meeting is at 7:30 PM Talk In -146.820(-)

### N.E. Georgia ARC

209 Athens St. Jefferson Meeting is at 7:00 PM Talk In - 147.225(+) PL 123.0

### North Fulton Amateur Radio League

Southern Skillet 1037 Alpharetta St., Roswell Dinner at 6:30 PM, meeting at 7:30 PM

Talk In - 145.47(-)

### <u>Second Thursday</u> Alford Memorial Radio Club

Annistown Road Baptist Church Intersection of Annistown Rd & Spain Rd Stone Mountian Dinner at 6:00 PM Meeting at 7:30 PM Talk In - 146.760(-)

### <u>First Saturday</u> North GA QRP Club

Wieuca Baptist Church on Peachtree Rd/Wieuca, 10 AM

### Metro Atlanta VE Exam Schedule

**GARS** publishes Metro Atlanta area VE exam schedules as a service and is not responsible for errors or changes. Call and confirm schedules before going. All sessions are walk-in. Take copies of current license and certificate of completed elements with you to all sessions. Find additional sessions online at www.arrl-ga.org

### First Sunday, Even Months

WCARS VEC 2:00 PM n High School 3305 Popla RD, Gainsville Terry Jones

Johnson High School 3305 Poplar Springs RD, Gainsville Terry Jones, W4TL (770)967-6364

### First Saturday, Even Months

9:00AM EOC Building Butch Nitz, AF4FS (770) 968-8780

### Second Tuesday

7:00PM Walton EMC 3645 Lenora Church Rd, Snellville Wayne Taylor, WD4CCA (770)498-7759

### Second Saturday, Odd Months

ARRL VEC 8:30 AM Stone Mountain Methodist Church 5312 West Mountain St. Stone Mountain Bob Varone, W4ETN (770)978-3179

### **Third Saturday**

CA VEC 9:00AM Marietta First United Methodist Church Room 305, 56 Whitlock Ave Marietta David Still, WB4RRD (770) 973-2566

### Fourth Tuesday

ARRL VEC 7:00 PM United Way Service Center 6279 Fairburn Road, Douglasville

### Fourth Friday

W5YI VEC 7:00 PM St. John Neumann Church 801 Tom Smith Road Lilburn Headphones Provided! Howie Gould, W9HG (770)921-8362

### Fourth Sunday

2:30 PM
Georgia Tech Student Center
Room 301
David Ziskind, KE4QLH
(404) 966-6864

### **GARS Communication System**

### **6 Meter Repeater**

53.110 (-1 MHz) 82.5 PL Tone

### 2 Meter Repeater

147.075(+) MHz 82.5 PL Tone

#### 70 Cm Repeater

444.525(+) MHz 82.5 PL Tone

### **APRS**

144.390 -- 1200 Baud W4GR/Relay Main Repeater Site
Oak Street, Lawrenceville
Backup Repeater Site
Lanier Mountain, Snellville
Remote Receive Sites

Bogan Road\*, Buford Goshen Springs Road, Norcross Lanier Mountain, Snellville

\*Indefinitely off-the-air



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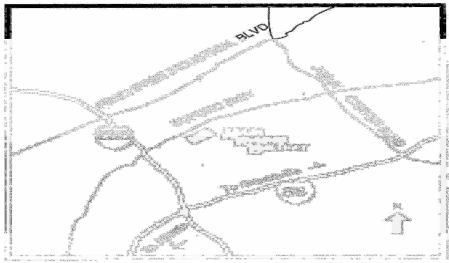
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Mari Alexandra



Gwinnett Amateur Radio Society PO Box 88 Lilburn, GA 30048

To receive the **Garzette** via email...contact John A. Davis WB4QDX wb4qdx@gars.org





### January 2004

10th 8:00am— Executive Committee—Golden Corral Restaurant, Riverside Dr., Lawrenceville (see page 4 for details)

13th 7:30pm-GARS Club Meeting (see page 4 for location)

23rd VE Session

24th 10:00am Tech Fest & Chili Cook-off (See page 4 for details)

### February 2004

10th 6:30pm—Executive Committee

10th 7:30pm—GARS Club Meeting

27th VE Session

### March 2004

9th 6:30pm—Executive Committee

9th 7:30pm—GARS Club Meeting

26th VE Session